

## How to Fight Terrorism

## **Use An All-Fronts Strategy**

First and foremost, our strategy should be one of attacking on all fronts simultaneously. In the battle against terrorism, there is no magic bullet, no single weapon that will give us victory. We must employ, simultaneously and without letup, every technique at our disposal.

## **Know the Enemy**

Second, we must never forget that, when fighting members of an alien culture, it is fundamentally important that we know the enemy. This means that every proposed (and existing) plan, every proposed (and existing) tactic, be presented to Middle East experts before it is put into effect. We should have a stable of experts that we can call on, at least 50% of whom were born and raised in the Middle East. The remainder can be natives of Western countries. (Fouad Ajami of Johns Hopkins is one of the best in the first category, Bernard Lewis of Princeton is one of the best in the latter category.) It is crucial that we know beforehand any unforeseen undesirable consequences of our proposed plans.

## **Remain in Constant Communication with the Israelis**

Certainly the Israelis must be regarded as the best in the world at fighting terrorism. Therefore it is essential that we remain in constant communication with them, and include them among the experts referred to above with whom we discuss any future plans and tactics.

## **Threaten to Bomb Al Jazeera If Terrorists Use WMD**

It may well be that the single most effective deterrent to terrorists contemplating the use of WMD would be the guarantee, made public beforehand, that if these weapons are used against us, we will bomb off the air Al Jazeera and all other Middle East television and radio stations, and keep them off the air permanently, using our superior technology, e.g., satellites, to locate the sources of future broadcasts. In short, the price of a WMD attack will be the permanent loss of Al Qaeda's public voice.

## **Reduce Financial Aid to Terrorist Countries For Each Attack**

We should announce, publicly or behind-the-scenes, that from now on, aid to Middle East nations will be reduced significantly for each terrorist attack in Western countries. The reductions should, as much as possible, be aimed at reducing the amount that the leaders of the Middle East countries routinely skim off the top of all aid to their countries.

## **Don't Broadcast News of Our Defense Weaknesses and Strengths**

A nation that is willing to do its enemy's research for it has no hope of winning a war. None. Whether by law or by an agreement among journalists, we must stop broadcasting details of the weaknesses, and strengths, in our national security.

## **Don't Broadcast the Names of Terrorist Organizations That Carry Out Bombings**

Why should we provide terrorist organizations with free publicity? Why should we give them a further incentive for carrying out their attacks? News organizations around the world should make a voluntary pact only to report the attacks, and not to give the names of the organizations claiming credit.

## **Reduce Gas Consumption**

A nation that is willing to contribute money to its enemy has no hope of winning a war. None. Every dollar we spend on gasoline and heating oil is money contributed to the terrorists, as Tom Friedman and others have repeatedly pointed out. Therefore government should promote, through tax incentives, more fuel-efficient cars, and citizens should begin loudly regarding with contempt all those — e.g., owners of gas-guzzling SUVs — who spend more on gas than they absolutely need to.

## **Make Full Use of Propaganda Films**

Nowhere is the colossal ineptitude of the Bush administration in fighting terrorism more evident than in its completely ignoring the power of the media to influence public opinion in Iraq and elsewhere in the Middle East. *If your enemy is stupid and gullible, make the most of it!* The administration made an early attempt to broadcast to Iraq from an aircraft, but the incompetents in charge of the project hired, as announcer, a man with a provincial accent which, in Iraq, was regarded with amused contempt. In any case, the project was aborted. And yet it is hard to believe that a carefully programmed alternative to Al Jazeera (on both TV and radio), utilizing the full genius of the American advertising industry, employing every seductive means to lure viewers, would not have a major effect on the Iraqi population, a sufficiently large proportion of which does have access to TV and radio. (Otherwise bin Laden would not be so diligent in getting his tapes to Al Jazeera.)

One theme that would definitely be worth trying (if experts in Middle East culture agree) would be that of the ignominious treatment of the remains of suicide bombers by their own people. (See, e.g., “Bomber’s End: Flash of Terror, Humble Grave”, *The New York Times*, July 1, 2007, p. 1.) “In Kabul, the burial of a suicide bomber occurs at a secret time in a secret place, the forgettable end to what most here consider an unforgivable act.” It is hard to believe that a short film showing the recruitment of a young bomber, the glory he is told awaits him, then pictures of his headless, limbless torso before it is thrown into an unmarked grave, with no one to say any words in his memory before the dirt covers his remains — it is hard to believe that a steady presentation of such films would not have a significant effect on the recruitment of potential bombers.

Another theme that might be worth trying (if experts in Middle East culture agree) is that of mockery of the terrorists: “Islamic terrorists once again demonstrated they are too stupid to do anything for their people except build bombs...”, etc. In a culture in which being admired for one’s deeds counts so much, such a message, repeated in various forms, day in, day out, might begin to have a significant effect.

And surely the nation whose films are still the most popular of all films throughout the world — surely such a nation can come up with dramas of poor persons in the Middle East turning their backs on terrorism, talking with contempt about the shame that terrorism brings on Islam, the dramas featuring everything to appeal to an ignorant, impressionable, angry Middle East audience.

### **Encourage Warfare Between Tribes, Militias, Sunnis and Shiites**

The principal is simple: Get them to kill each other — get your enemy to kill your enemy. Make full use of the media to broadcast facts about one faction that are likely to inflame the hatred of another. Make the most of the ignorance, stupidity, and obsession with violence of these groups.

### **Keep Terrorist Prisoners in Model Prisons**

The world is rightly outraged at U.S. treatment of prisoners in Abu-Graib and Guantanamo. And yet, since there is a high probability that many of these prisoners will be attacking us again if they are released, it is understandable that we should not want to release them. The solution to the problem is simple: do whatever is necessary to convert U.S. prisons containing terrorists and insurgents, into model prisons. Guarantee religious freedom, time and space for daily prayers, appropriate diets, comfortable cells, absence of torture. Invite routine visits by the Red Cross, Amnesty International, and other agencies. Broadcast, on our own Middle-East TV stations described above, frequent reports of the conditions and treatment in these prisons, thus helping to counteract terrorist propaganda about bad treatment. Make the prisons into a propaganda weapon for our side.

### **Close Off Immigration to People from Terrorist Countries**

Although I have the highest respect for *New York Times* columnist Tom Friedman, I cannot agree with his proposal to keep our doors open to people from all over the world because this will bring in the best minds from other countries. The question that I feel he must answer is, “Suppose only one or two out of a hundred students from the Middle East manage to set off a WMD in, say, New York City. Suppose several hundred thousand persons are killed. Will you still argue for open immigration?”

Our attitude should be: if they hate us so much, let them learn their chemistry and physics and engineering out of the Koran.

### **Deport Those Who Preach Terrorism**

As a result of the attacks on the London subways and buses in July, 2005, Prime Minister Tony Blair announced a new crackdown on proponents of terrorism in Britain, including deportation of those who preach terrorism, and the shutting down of mosques where such preaching takes place. So it should be in our country, regardless of what the vanity of liberals says to the contrary.

### **Strongly Encourage Islamic Moderates to Help Fight Terrorism**

Our message to Islamic moderates should be: it is not enough not to participate in terrorism. It

is not enough to voice quiet disapproval after each terrorist attack. If you want us to make a clear distinction between your brand of Islam and that of the terrorists, you must publicly raise your voices against terrorism, you must start turning over terrorists to our authorities. We should use all legal means to encourage, motivate, pressure the moderates to do this.

### **Encourage Citizens to Volunteer in Protecting Borders, Reservoirs, Power Plants, Etc.**

As reported in *The New York Times*<sup>1</sup> in May 2005, some citizens are already helping to patrol U.S. borders and coasts. This practice needs to be encouraged. It is certainly not new to our country, since at the start of the Cold War, during the early fifties, even high school students were volunteering to spot Russian bombers that might reach the U.S. mainland. We need to start patrolling our reservoirs, chemical plants, nuclear plants, and some of this can be done by trained civilians.

### **Promote Use of Transparent Backpacks in Cities**

Finally, we should start making transparent backpacks a new fashion trend. It would be a trend that would make the job of police in cities, and especially subways, much easier.

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1. "Retirees Answer the Call To Hunt for Terrorists", *The New York Times*, May 4, 2005, p. A14